

Finish

Margaret McCarthy

Bring back the key and
leave it.

Give notice and
mean it.

Take the masking tape from skirting boards
Before the paint dries.

After cleaning the room
put the vacuum away.

Finish one affair before
starting a new one.

Finish the class

 you set out to take,

 the tea that grows

 cold with no one to watch,

 the book you borrowed

 on my library card.

Bring closure to your relationship with the

 nostalgic and thuggish past.

Finish with the threads which hold you.

 Cut them with finger-scissors before you sleep.

End your worries.

 Settle your debts.

End your war.

 Leave dead people in their graves.

End your days with nights,

 your wakefulness with sleep.

Finish what you began

 Before you restart with me.